

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A pressure cylinder, comprising:
 - a cylinder housing having one end including an opening;
 - a piston axially displaceable within the cylinder housing;
 - a piston rod coupled to the piston and extending at least through the opening at the one end of the cylinder;
 - a cylinder base closing off the cylinder at an end of the cylinder housing opposite the opening;
 - a pressure chamber defined between the piston and the cylinder base and capable of being pressurized by a pressure medium; and
 - a switching disk for interacting with a switch to determine the position of the piston, the switching disk being displaceably positioned in the pressure chamber in frictional engagement and coaxially with the piston rod so that the switching disk passes to a starting position near the piston in response to a pressure impulse overcoming the frictional engagement when the pressure chamber is first pressurized.
2. The pressure cylinder according to claim 1, wherein the switching disk has an outer diameter and the cylinder housing has an inner diameter and the outer diameter of the switching

disk is smaller than the inner diameter of the cylinder housing by an amount resulting in the switching disk presenting a maximally effective surface for the pressure impulse.

3. The pressure cylinder according to claim 1, wherein the piston rod includes a coaxial extension extending into the pressure chamber and the switching disk is mounted on the coaxial extension.

4. The pressure cylinder according to claim 1, wherein the switching disk includes a sleeve-like lug positioned radially on the inside of the switching disk to provide guidance along the piston rod.

5. The pressure cylinder according to claim 1, further including an elastomeric ring held in a corresponding groove of the switching disk, wherein the frictional engagement of the switching disk on the piston rod is provided by the elastomeric ring.

6. The pressure cylinder according to claim 1, further comprising a shoulder protruding radially to the inside of the

cylinder housing and serving as an end stop for the piston and as an end stop for the switching disk near the piston.

7. The pressure cylinder according to claim 1, wherein the switch is an inductive sensor and the switching disk is at least partially formed as a permanent magnet for interacting with the inductive sensor for determining the position of said piston.

8. The pressure cylinder of claim 1, wherein the pressure cylinder is a unilaterally effective pneumatic cylinder having a single pressure chamber and an opening, and wherein the switching disk is located in the single pressure chamber on the side of said piston facing away from the opening for the piston rod to extend out of the cylinder housing.

9. The pressure cylinder according to claim 8, wherein the piston rod extends through the opening of the cylinder housing, and wherein the cylinder housing is closed off at the other end by the cylinder base.

10. The pressure cylinder according to claim 9, wherein the pressure chamber includes a pressure medium inlet

opening for pressurizing the pressure chamber and a guiding recess corresponding to an extension of the piston rod.

11. A drafting arrangement for a textile machine, comprising in combination a drafting frame including rollers and a pressure cylinder according to claim 1 for applying a load to at least one of the rollers of the drafting frame.

12. A method of drafting material, comprising:

passing the material between rollers on a drafting frame;
and

utilizing the pressure cylinder of claim 1 to apply a load to at least one of the rollers and to switch off the drafting frame when a muff forms on the at least one roller.